

A.5. Meta-observer analysis of Experiment 2

As the entire experimental design of Experiment 2 contained 50 images \times 112 blocks for a total of 5600 trials, each individual participant in the meta-observer group completed only part of the design. Each participant completed at least 8 blocks (400 trials) of this experiment (each block taking about 2.5 min to complete). In a set of 8 blocks, each basic-level category was represented as a target in this session, and the distractor set was rotated such that no distractor set would repeat itself for any individual. The entire design was completed by eight meta-observers. This ensured that the 25 target items per category were not over-learned by participants.

As the critical analyses for this work are on the image items, this approach is generally justified. In addition, we took the following additional precautions. In order to report meta-observer results, we converted individual participant performances in each block into z-scores so that performance on any block is relative to the overall performance of the individual observer. For all statistics reported, we used the more conservative between-observer methods. The agreements between meta-observers were computed by averaging correlations between each meta-observer to the mean of the remaining meta-observers, and ranged from 0.60 to 0.78 (mean 0.70).